

Message Text

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53

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 OMB-01

ACDA-19 DRC-01 /139 W
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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0897

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 5068

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, IN, VS

SUBJECT: MRS. GANDHI DENIES HAVING SUPPORTED PRESENCE OF
US TROOPS IN VIETNAM

1. HINDUSTAN TIMES OF APRIL 16 CARRIED STORY FROM NEW YORK
TIMES QUOTING SENATOR HUMPHREY AS SAYING THAT MRS. GANDHI HAD
FAVORED THE DISPATCH OF US TROOPS TO VIETNAM WHEN SHE TALKED TO
HIM DURING HIS 1966 VISIT TO INDIA,(TEXT SENT SEPTTEL).

COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA (MARXIST) MP JYOTIRMOY BOSU RAISED
THE ISSUE IN THE LOK SABHA (LOWER HOUSE) AND MRS. GANDHI
DISMISSED THE STORY AS "BASELESS". SHE SAID, "EITHER THE
VICE PRESIDENT HAS BEEN MISQUOTED OR PERHAPS HE IS CONFUSING
SOMEBODY ELSE." SHE ADDED THAT HER VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT WERE
KNOWN LONG BEFORE SHE HAD ANY GOVERNMENT POSITION AND WERE
EXPRESSED "IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS" DURING BOTH HER 1961
VISIT TO THE US AND A STATE VISIT TO THE US IN 1966. "IN FACT
THIS WAS ONE OF THE MAJOR CAUSES FOR THE IRRITATION OF THE
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UNITED STATES ADMINISTRATION WITH OUR GOVERNMENT".

2. BOSU RETORTED THAT IF MRS. GANDHI HAD BEEN OPPOSED TO THE PRESENCE OF US TROOPS IN VIETNAM, WHY HAD SHE PERMITTED GENERAL WESTMORELAND TO COME TO INDIA AS AN OFFICIAL GUEST? THE PRIME MINSITER DID NOT REPLY. (FYI - GENERAL WESTMORELAND VISITED INDIA FEBRUARY 5-13, 1971, AS AN OFFICIAL GUEST OF THE INDIAN ARMY. THE VISIT FOLLOWED BY SOME TEN MONTHS A VISIT TO WASHINGTON OF THEN CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF, GENERAL MANEKSHAW. MOYNIHAN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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30 JUN 2005

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